

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2673

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SEDU, HO

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON FACILITIES OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BEGIN SUMMARY: A GROUP OF ARMED, MASKED MEN SET FIRE TO THE NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF HONDURAS' PRINTING SHOP AND TO THE OFFICES OF THE HONDURAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FEDERATION (FEUH). LEFTWING STUDENT CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT THE ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT BY A GROUP OF RIGHTWING STUDENTS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOH. THE INCIDENT IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE FEUH. END SUMMARY.

1. AT APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT FEBRUARY 29, 1975, A GROUP OF SOME TWENTY TO TWENTY-FIVE ARMED, MASKED MEN ENTERED THE UNIVERSITY COMPOUND IN SEVERAL CARS. AFTER OVERPOWERING AND BEATING THREE GUARDS WHO THEN WERE LOCKED IN A CLASSROOM, THE MEN SET FIRE TO THE UNIVERSITY PRINTING SHOP AND FEUH OFFICES. BOTH INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED IN THE MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY. UPON LEAVING THE BUILDING, THE MEN FIRED THEIR WEAPONS AT SEVERAL OTHER UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS AND VEHICLES PARKED IN FRONT OF THE BUILDINGS. THE WEAPONS REPORTEDLY INCLUDED SUBMACHINEGUNS, RIFLES AND SHOTGUNS.

2. A GUARD AT ANOTHER UNIVERSITY BUILDING NOTED THE DISTURB-
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ANCE AND ALERTED GOH SECURITY FORCES AND FIREMEN. THE FIRE-

MEN MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE FIRE TO THE TWO AREAS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING. THE FEUH OFFICES WERE COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND THE PRINTING SHOP WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED.

3. LEFTIST STUDENT CONTACTS AT THE UNIVERSITY INDICATE THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT BY RIGHTIST STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED HELP FROM THE GOH. THEY BELIEVE THAT THAT HELP WAS CHanneled THROUGH COLONEL JOSE JORGE SOLORZANO, FORMERLY HEAD OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND CURRENTLY HEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL HONOR GUARD.

4. BEGIN COMMENT: THE VIOLENCE IS PROBABLY RELATED TO THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS FOR RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE ELECTIONS WITHIN FEUH. RIGHTIST STUDENTS PROBABLY BELIEVE THAT LEFTISTS HAVE GAINED TOO MUCH CONTROL AT THE UNIVERSITY AND INTENDED THE ATTACK AS A WARNING. END COMMENT.
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